

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-02
INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /051 W
----- 050468 /11

R 171837Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 866
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6912

LIMDIS

EO11652 GDS
TAGS NATO PFOR FR
SUBJECT FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO DPC TASKING NATO POLITICAL BODIES

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH HAVE OBJECTED TO A ROUTINE DPC REQUEST THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE PREPARE A REPORT AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE HILEX-7 EXERCISE. AMBASSADOR TINE HAS TAKEN A POSITION OF PRINCIPLE THAT AN "ORGAN OF THE -4" LIKE THE DPC CANNOT ISSUE SUCH A REQUEST TO AN ORGAN OF THE 15 WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL -- WHICH IS TANTA-MOUNT TO SAYING WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE FRENCH. TO ACCEPT THE FRENCH POSITION, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD HAMSTRING THE FREE INTERPLAY BETWEEN NATO POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES THAT IS TRADITIONAL AND NECESSARY TO THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF NATO HEADQUARTERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYG LUNS INTENDS TO TRY TO PERSUADE AMBASSADOR TINE NOT TO TRY TO BLOCK THE TRADITIONAL INTERPLAY BETWEEN COMMITTEES BY INSISTING ON HIS POINT. THE ISSUE MAY COME UP, HOWEVER, IN POLADS OR PERMREPS' DISCUSSION IN JANUARY. WE EXPECT OTHER DELS WILL SUPPORT LUNS' POSITION. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORITY TO RESIST THE FRENCH ON THIS POINT. END SUMMARY.
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1. ACTING POLADS CHAIRMAN HAS PROVIDED US IN CONFIDENCE WITH COPY OF MEMORANDA DETAILING EXCHANGES HE HAS HAD WITH THE FRENCH POLAD REP REGARDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DPC CAN MANDATE A TASK TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. THE ORIGIN OF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THE DPC REPORT ON EXERCISE HILEX-7 (DPC/D(76)21) WHICH INCLUDES AMONG ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AN INVITATION TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A) TO ELABORATE PROCEDURES PERMITTING A RAPID AND DIRECT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG NATIONAL INFORMATION AUTHORITIES AND BETWEEN

THESE AUTHORITIES AND NATO, AND (B) TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MEASURES CONTAINED IN THE INVENTORY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN C-M(72)3.

2. RESPONDING IN A LETTER OF 9 NOVEMBER TO A QUERY FROM THE FRENCH POLAD REP ON THIS POINT, POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD CARRIED OUT STUDIES IN THE PAST IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS FROM THE DPC. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT OBJECT ON THIS OCCASION TO HAVING THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESPOND TO THE DPC'S REQUEST.

3. IN REPLY, THE FRENCH POLAD REP MADE CLEAR THAT IN PITE OF THE PRECEDENTS MENTIONED IN POLAD CHAIRMAN'S LETTER, IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR AN "ORGAN OF THE 14," I.E., THE DPC, TO ISSUE A MANDATE TO AN ORGAN OF THE 15 SUCH AS THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. THE CHAIRMAN ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE HER TO PERMIT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF THE DPC IN THIS CASE, REASONING THAT BECAUSE THE DPC HAD BEEN CREATED BY THE COUNCIL, IT WAS A LEGALLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO HAVING THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESPOND TO ITS INVITATION. THE FRENCH POLAD REP MERELY RESTATED OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROCEDURE, SINCE AMBASSADOR TINE INSISTS
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THAT NY SUCH DPC REQUEST MUST BE PASSED VIA THE COUNCIL, HOWEVER BRIEF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION MAY BE. FRENCH POLAD REP INDICATED THAT IF THE CHAIRMAN RAISES THE QUESTION IN POLADS IN JANUARY, AS THE CHAIRMAN INTENDS TO DO, THE FRENCH DELEGATION WOULD OBJECT.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMORANDUM ON THIS EXCHANGE STATES "IT SEEMS TO US THAT ACQUIESCENCE IN THE FRENCH DEMAND FOR COUNCIL RATIFICATION OF ANY DPC REQUEST FOR A STUDY BY A NATO COMMITTEE WOULD CREATE AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. THIS COULD PERMIT A NON-PARTICIPANT IN THE DPC EFFECTIVELY TO PARALYZE THAT COMMITTEE'S OPERATIONS BY DENYING IT THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES." THE MEMORANDUM SUGGESTS THAT SYG LUNS "POINT OUT TO AMBASSADOR TINE THAT THE DPC IS NOT AN ORGAN OF THE 14 BUT OF THE 15, WHO CREATED IT. THE FACT THAT NEITHER FRANCE NOR GREECE CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK DOES NOT NEGATE THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN DULY ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL AND IS THEREFORE ENTITLED TO THE SAME STAFF SUPPORT AS ANY OTHER NATO COMMITTEE." STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO06912
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761290/baaabahj.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: STATE INFO PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006